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27 September 1976

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: New Phased-Array Radar at Pechora

1. The Soviets are building a new type phased-array radar facility near Pechora in the north central USSR. This radar appears to be intended to complement the ballistic missile early warning coverage provided by the Hen House radars and another new phased-array radar being built at Olenegorsk.

2. The Pechora radar facility has a large antenna about 340 feet wide and 260 feet high. There is a large control building about 2,500 feet from the large antenna. The location of this building suggests that it will have a smaller antenna associated with it. If so, the radar would be the bistatic type, which would give it much better tracking, prediction, and target-handling capabilities than the Hen House radars.

3. The Soviets started building the facility near Pechora in 1974, but construction progressed slowly until this year. [redacted] in February 1976, the large antenna was in the early stages of construction and little work had been done on the control building. By August, the

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NOTE: This memorandum was prepared in the Office of Strategic Research and the Office of Weapons Intelligence. Queries and comments may be addressed

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antenna appeared to be nearly complete, and the control building was in a mid-stage of construction. Although the pace of construction appears to be picking up, this unique radar facility probably will not be operational before 1979.

4. The radar at Pechora is different than the phased-array radar being built at Olenegorsk. The Olenegorsk facility contains only one radar antenna, which is only about 150 feet high, and the control building is directly behind the radar antenna. Also, the Olenegorsk radar is being built near a Hen House radar, while there is no other early warning radar near the Pechora facility.

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6. The construction of additional ballistic missile early warning radars is not prohibited by the ABM treaty, provided they are located on the periphery and oriented outwards--as the Pechora radar is. The treaty does, however, bar the construction of any additional ABM battle management radars except at Moscow or at an ICBM complex.

7. The potential capabilities of the new large phased-array radar antennas at Olenegorsk and Pechora raise the possibility that they could be used to perform ABM battle management rather than early warning. The radars would add nothing to the current capabilities of the Moscow ABM system, however, and we see no signs to suggest that the Soviets intend to deploy ABM interceptor missiles outside the Moscow area.

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SUBJECT: New Phased-Array Radar at Pechora

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